



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Seattle District

# Public Notice

CENWS-OD-TS-NS

17 August 2000

Reference: CENWS-OD-TS-NS-10

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (Fiscal Years 2001-2005) MAINTENANCE  
DREDGING, UPPER DUWAMISH WATERWAY, SEATTLE HARBOR, WASHINGTON

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The purpose of this multi-year Public Notice is to solicit comments from interested persons, groups, and agencies on Seattle District Corps of Engineers proposed maintenance dredging of the Upper Duwamish Waterway Federal navigation project with open water disposal of dredged material into navigable waters.

This Public Notice is being issued in accordance with rules and regulations published as 33 CFR 209.145, "Disposal of Dredged Material in Navigable or Ocean Waters" (39 F.R. 26635-641, 22 July 1974 and 33 CFR 320-329). The location of the proposed dredging and disposal is shown on the enclosed plan.

The proposed maintenance dredging and disposal activities will be reviewed in accordance with Section 313 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1323, 86 Stat. 816); Section 404 of the same Act (33 U.S.C. 1344); Section 307(c)(1) and (2) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(1) and (2), 86 Stat. 1280); the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347); the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 472a, et seq); the Migratory Marine Game-Fish Act (16 U.S.C. 760c-760g); the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-666c); the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 668a-668cc-6, 87 Stat. 884); the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361, et seq); and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470, 80 Stat. 915).

## Federal Maintenance Dredging

The Seattle Harbor project and maintenance dredging by the Department of the Army is authorized by the River and Harbor Act of March 2, 1925 (House Document 108, 68th Congress, 1st Session) and the River and Harbor Act of July 3, 1930 (House Document 126, 71<sup>st</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session).

Proposed channel maintenance dredging consists of clamshell dredging of approximately 20,000 cubic yards of river sediment

between Stations 125+50 and 130+50 in Fiscal Year 2001 and approximately 100,000 to 200,000 cubic yards from between stations 254+00 and 275+56 every one to three years. Disposal is proposed at the Washington State Department of Natural Resources managed PSDDA (Puget Sound Dredged Disposal Analysis) openwater site in Elliott Bay, Latitude 47 degrees 35.96 minutes, Longitude 122 degrees 21.45 minutes (NAD 83) in accordance with criteria established for disposal at the site.

The dredging and disposal activities are scheduled to be performed during the October through February 14 period that is preferred by Federal, State and, Tribal fisheries resource agencies.

Interagency memorandums dated December 20, 1998 and February 3, 2000 document the suitability of proposed dredged material from the Upper Duwamish Waterway for unconfined openwater disposal at the non-dispersive Elliott Bay openwater disposal site. The results of the dredged material evaluations are available at the Seattle District, Dredged Material Management Office. Beneficial uses disposal of the clean dredged material resource will also be considered for dredged materials from the PSDDA low ranked area. As open-water disposal is proposed, no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated. Adverse environmental effects of proposed work are alteration of benthic marine communities in the maintenance dredging areas and temporary alteration of natural communities within the boundaries of the Elliott Bay disposal site or alternative beneficial uses areas. The potential exists for temporary conditions of reduced dissolved oxygen and increased turbidity in the federal channel. However, this effect is expected to be limited to the immediate dredging area and of relatively short duration. No adverse effects on fishery resources are anticipated.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) dated September 1979 for the Seattle Harbor navigation project has been filed with the Council on Environmental Quality by the Seattle District Corps of Engineers. Designation of the proposed disposal site for dredged material associated with this Federal project shall be made through the application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army. If these guidelines alone prohibit the designation of this proposed disposal site, any potential impairment to the maintenance of navigation, including any economic impact on navigation and anchorage which would result from the failure to use the disposal site, will also be considered.

The decision whether to perform this work will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern

for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which adequately may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

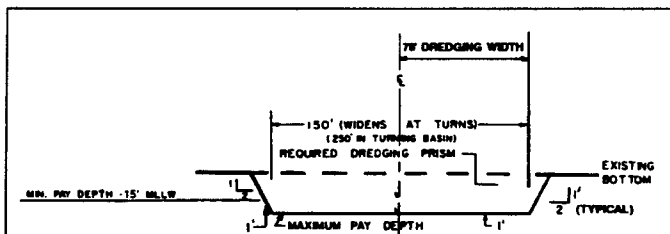
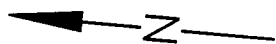
A preliminary determination has been made that the proposed work will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. A biological assessment (BA) for the Fiscal year 2001 dredging is being finalized and the Section 7 consultations have been completed with USF&WL and NMFS for the Elliott Bay disposal area under authority of the Endangered Species Act. A Final Environmental Assessment and 404(b)(1) Evaluation will be prepared based on responses to the Public Notice. Coordination has been made with State, Federal, and Tribal interests.

The proposed action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the approved State of Washington Coastal Zone Management Program.

Replies to this Public Notice should be mailed to reach the District Engineer, ATTN: CENWS-OD-TS-NS-10, PO Box 3755, Seattle, Washington 98124-3755, not later than 18 September 2000 to ensure consideration. Telephone inquiries should be directed to Hiram Arden, (206) 764-3401.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Encl



TYPICAL CHANNEL SECTION (EXCEPT AS NOTED)  
NOT TO SCALE

Station 254+00 to 275+56

Note: Between channel stations 125+50 to 130+50 maximum pay depth -31' MLLW and 200' width

US ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SEATTLE  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
Seattle, Washington

SEATTLE HARBOR (DUWAMISH WATERWAY), WA  
MAINTENANCE DREDGING

17 AUG 2000

PUBLIC NOTICE  
CENWS-00-TS-NS-10

SHEET  
1 OF 2

### Elliott Bay Disposal Site

TYPE: Nondispersive

AREA: 415 Acres DEPTH: 300-360 ft.

SITE DIMENSIONS: 6200 ft. by 4000 ft. Ovoid

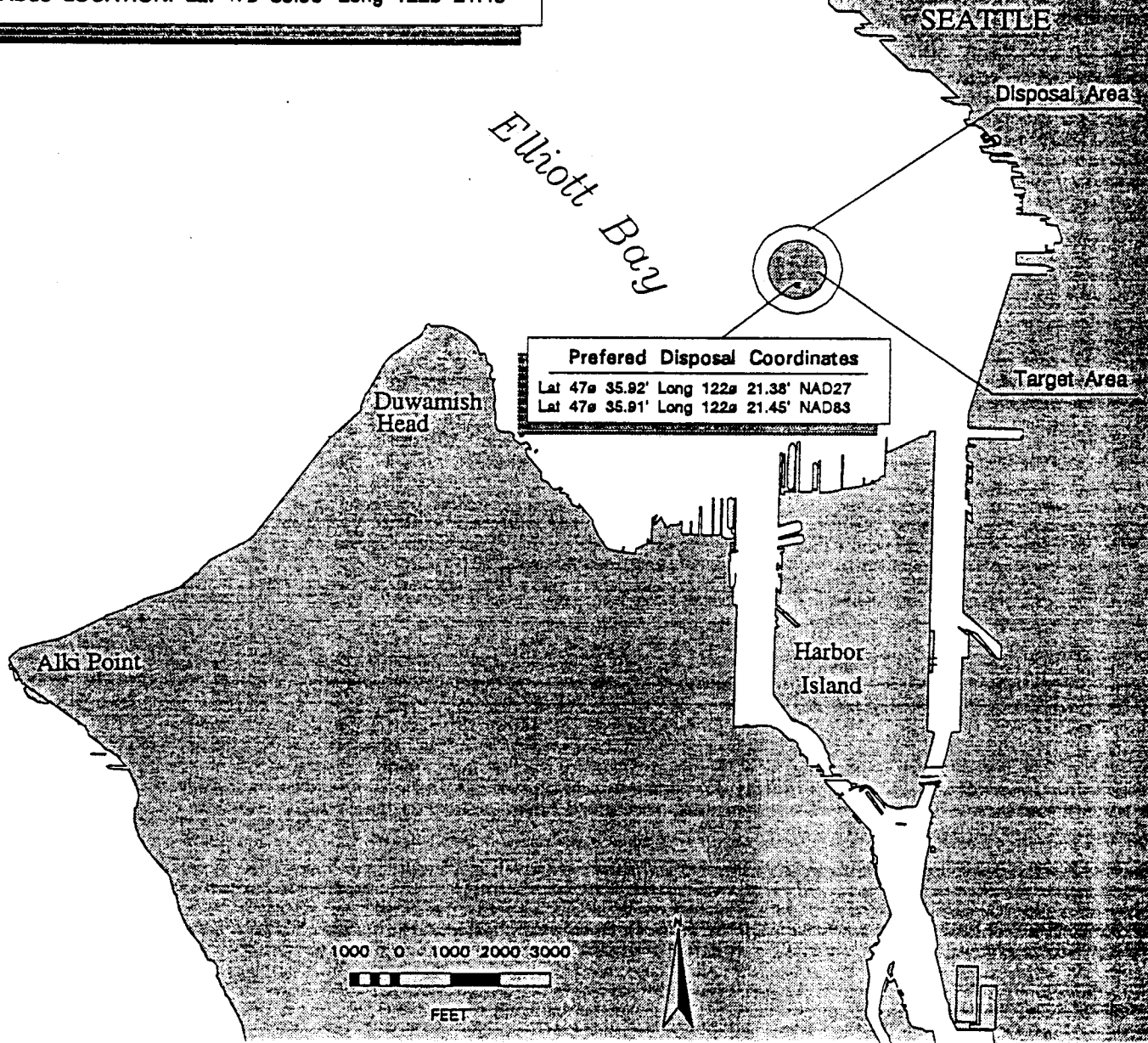
DISPOSAL ZONE: 1800 ft. Diameter

TARGET AREA: 1200 ft. Diameter

BARGE POSITIONING METHOD: VTS

NAD27 LOCATION: Lat 47° 35.97' Long 122° 21.38'

NAD83 LOCATION: Lat 47° 35.96' Long 122° 21.45'



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MAINTENANCE DREDGING

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PUBLIC NOTICE  
CENWS-00-NS-10

SHEET  
2 OF 2



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Mail Stop PV-11 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8711 • (206) 459-6000

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Notice of Application for  
Water Quality Certification  
and for  
Certification of Consistency with the  
Washington Coastal Zone Management Program

**Date:** 17 August 2000

Notice is hereby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217), to certify that the project described in the Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. CENWS-OD-TS-NS-10 will comply with Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Act, and with applicable provisions of State and Federal water pollution control laws.

Notice is also given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 307(c) of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451), to certify that the above-referenced project will comply with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that Program.

Any person desiring to present views pertaining to the project on either or both (1) compliance with water pollution control laws or (2) the project's compliance or consistency with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program may do so by providing written comments within 30 days of the above publication date to:

Permit Coordination Unit  
Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47703  
Olympia, WA 98504-7703